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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/764,628	01/18/2001	Kohichi Kamijoh	JP919990240-US1	8126
7590	01/11/2005		EXAMINER	
Anne Vachon Dougherty, Esq 3173 Cedar Road Yorktown Heights, NY 10598				BHATNAGAR, ANAND P
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2623		

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/764,628	KAMIJOH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anand Bhatnagar	2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07/12/04.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 January 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's amendment filed on 07/12/04 has been entered and made of record.
2. Applicant has amended claims 1, 9, and 17. Currently claims 1-24 are pending.
3. Applicant believes that the amendment to claims 1, 9, and 17 overcomes the 35 USC 112, 1st and 2nd paragraph, rejections. Examiner disagrees because these claims still contain 35 USC 112, 1st and 2nd paragraph, rejections. Each of these claims contain similar limitations which make the claims vague and indefinite as will be explained. Examiner's reading of the 2nd and 4th limitations of the amended claim 1 is as the following: The second limitation, of amended claim 1, states that "conversion means for altering values of image data so that quantized values will not be changed by errors introduced through said predetermined process," which is read as image data already containing quantized values and this image data with the quantized values is going through a predetermined process, i.e. predetermined process is performed after the quantization since the image data already contains quantized values. Nowhere does it state that the quantization process takes place after the predetermined process has taken place on the image data. While the 4th limitation, of amended claim 1, states "quantization means for quantizing said image data for which said predetermined process has been performed". This limitation, without question, identifies the process of quantization taking place on image data that has undergone a predetermined process. Therefore examiner is unsure if which process is taking place the quantification process or the predetermined processing of the image data. This discrepancy between the limitations makes the claim vague and indefinite. Similar problem exists for claims 9 and 17. Examiner has addressed the claims as best understood and maintains the same rejection as

the previous office action. Other arguments will be addressed after the correction of the 35 USC 112, 1st and 2nd paragraph rejections for these claims since examiner is unsure about the reading of the independent claims (1, 9, and 17), as well as claims dependent from these claims, and may need to change prior art depending on the corrections made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

A.) The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Regarding claims 1, 9, and 17: The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Examiner is unsure what is taking place first the quantization or the predetermined process. The first limitation states that image data values are changed so that the quantized values will not be changed due to errors produced by the predetermined process while the last limitation states quantizing the image data for which the predetermined process is being performed. Examiner will address the claims as best understood.

B.) The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding claims 1, 9, and 17: Examiner is unsure what is taking place first the quantization of the image data or the predetermined process. The first limitation states that image data values are changed so that the quantized values will not be changed due to errors produced by the predetermined process while the last limitation states quantizing the image data for which the predetermined process is being performed. Examiner will address the claims as best understood.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 17, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rabbani (U.S. patent 5,568,570).

Regarding claims 1, 9, and 17: Rabbani discloses an image processing apparatus comprising: Processor means for determining the quantization value fro a predetermined process to be performed on the image data (col. 8 lines 33-37); conversion means for altering values of image data so that quantized values will not be changed by errors introduced through a predetermined process (fig. 13 elements 52-58, col. 3 lines 38-67, col. 4 lines 1-11, and col. 8 lines 20-45, where the pixels values of the image data are changed until there is no

quantization error present); processing means for performing said predetermined process for said image data (col. 3 lines 32-41 and 55-61, where the high resolution image is changed to a low resolution image, this is read as a predetermined process being performed); and quantization means for quantizing said image data for which said predetermined process being performed (fig. 13 element 52 and col. 8 lines 30-32, where the image data is being quantized which has undergone a predetermined process of resolution change).

Regarding claims 4, 12, and 20: The image processing apparatus wherein said processing means performs, as said predetermined process, a process for embedding data in said image data (fig. 12 element 22 and col. 3 lines 55-64, wherein a watermark is inserted into an image which is undergone resolution change).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

A.) Claims 2, 10, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rabbani (U.S. patent 5,568,570) in view of Isnardi et al. (U.S. patent 6,037,984).

Regarding claims 2, 10, and 18: The image processing apparatus wherein said processing means divides said image data to perform an embedding process which

embeds embedding data into each of divided image data, said apparatus further comprising detection means for detecting said data being embedded in said divided image data.

Rabbani discloses to inserted a watermark into an image. Rabbani does not teach to divide the image prior to inserting a watermark and inserting a watermark into each of the divided regions. Isnardi et al. teaches to divide an image to insert a watermark into these divided regions (Isnardi et al.; col. 2 lines 27-30). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teaching of Isnardi et al. to that of Rabbani because they are analogous in watermarking images. One skilled in the art would have been motivated to include the dividing of the image of Isnardi et al. and incorporate it into the system of Rabbani in order to make it difficult for an individual to find the watermark(s) in the image and will not be able to easily tamper with the watermark.

B.) Claims 5, 7, 8, 13, 15, 16, 21, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rabbani (U.S. patent 5,568,570) in view of Isnardi et al. (U.S. patent 6,037,984).

Regarding claims 5, 13, and 21: The image processing apparatus wherein said processing means comprises: a hash value calculation means for calculating a hash value based on predetermined key information and said image data; and embedding means for embedding said hash value in said image data.

Examiner takes Official Notice because using a hash function based on key information is well known in the art as shown in the reference of Bloomberg (U.S. patent 5,765,176) (col. 25 lines 17-20).

Regarding claims 7, 15, and 23: The image processing apparatus further comprising detection means for detecting said data that are embedded in said image data. Examiner takes Official Notice because any watermarking technique(s) always requires a way to detect the specific watermark, which is usually performed by reversing the encoding method used.

Regarding claims 8, 16, and 24: The image processing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising: inverse quantization means for inversely quantizing image data; extraction means for extracting a hash value that is embedded in said inversely quantized image data; calculation means for calculating a hash value based on said image data and said key information that are used for the calculation of said hash value that is extracted; and alteration detection means for employing said hash value that is extracted and said hash value that is calculated to determine whether said inversely quantized image data have been altered.

Examiner takes Official Notice because it is well known in the art to reverse the process of encoding to detect the presence of a watermark and/or if any alteration has taken place to the image containing the watermark. Ex.: If a quantizer/DCT is used in encoding then a inverse quantization or inverse DCT, respectively, needs to be performed to decode.

C.) Claims 3, 6, 11, 14, 19, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rabbani (U.S. patent 5,568,570).

Regarding claims 3, 11, and 19: The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said conversion means comprises: format conversion means for changing the form of each pixel included in said image data. Examiner takes Official Notice because format conversion is well known in the art.

adjustment means for, based on a quantization value used for said quantization, adjusting said value of said image data whose form has been changed, wherein the form changing process and the adjustment process are repeated until, for each set of said image data whose form has been changed, quantized values do not change by errors that are introduced through said predetermined process. (fig.13 wherein there is a second pass and col. 8 lines 40-45, wherein the process is repeated to adjust the pixels until there is no quantization error present).

Regarding claims 6, 14, and 22: The image processing apparatus further comprising detection means for detecting said data that are embedded in said image data. Examiner takes Official Notice because any watermarking technique(s) always requires a way to detect the specific watermark, which is usually performed by reversing the encoding method used.

Conclusion:

7. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

8. Any inquiry into this communication should be directed to Anand Bhatnagar whose telephone number is 703-306-5914, whose supervisor is Amelia Au whose number is 703-308-6604, group receptionist is 703-305-4700, and group fax is 703-872-9306.

AB

Anand Bhatnagar

Art Unit 2623

January 7, 2005

SAMIR AHMED
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PRIMARY EXAMINER